



Ohio County Public Library
413 Main Street
Hartford, KY 42347
www.ohiocountypubliclibrary.org

In the matter of:

**Wireline Competition Bureau Seeking Comments on E-rate
Category Two) WC Docket No. 13-184**

We are pleased to be able to provide input on the impact of having access to secure and sufficient funding for our library WiFi and internal connections. Before the E-rate Modernization in 2014, virtually no libraries received funds for the, Priority 2 services. Unless we were at a 90% discount rate, we could assume there would be no funding left after all requests for Internet access were funded. USAC data shows that most libraries are eligible for a 70% discount or less and according to the American Library Association, many libraries stopped bothering to apply for WiFi funding. Some states have reported that none of the libraries have received WiFi funds since the beginning of the E-rate program.

In communities across the country, people turn to the library to use our WiFi on their tablets, laptops, and other devices. We are constantly fielding questions about patrons interested in using the library's WiFi to access their online college classes, personal information, job applications, and many other important things to which they would not otherwise have access. Each of these, especially online college classes, require a strong, stable WiFi signal in order to run the various programs and videos needed to fully utilize the service. Many of our patrons are unable to make it to the library during normal business hours, so the WiFi signal (which is accessible 24/7 in the building or on the grounds) allows them to use this service even when the library is closed to the public. This is a staple of our community.

With the commitment of the FCC to ensure a library budget of \$2.30 (\$5.00 for a selected category of larger urban and suburban libraries) per square foot, libraries can finally upgrade outdated equipment or plan for new construction. They have confidence that desperately needed support will be there.

Please maintain secure funding through the full five-year budget period as adopted during the 2014 Modernization. Our communities depend on that funding.

**Melanie Warga
Assistant Director
Ohio County Public Library**